

## ■ reviews

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Alexandre Jaume i Rosselló, *Complete Works of Alexandre Jaume Roselló*, Palma: Lleonard Muntaner, 2011. [Volume 1: *Alexandre Jaume Roselló (1879-1937)*, a biography edited by Alexandre Font Jaume, prologue by Jaume Massot Muntaner, 399p. + 12 plates. Volume 2: *Writings from Prison*, edited by Alexandre Font Jaume, prologue by Andreu Jaume Enseñat. Volume 3: *1931-1933 Impressions of a constituent member*, edited by Alexandre Font Jaume, prologue by José Bono Martínez and introduction by Maria Ballester Cardell, volumes 4 and 5 are in preparation].

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Alexandre Jaume i Rosselló was born in Montevideo, Uruguay, the November 22 1879. The son of Andreu Jaume Nadal and Isabel Rosselló Pastor, Majorcans who emigrated to Uruguay. His father had studied at the Seminary of Palma, but left the clerical career and opened a training centre (1867-1868) in addition to prepping Latin. His wife, also a school teacher, was the sister of Alexandre Rosello i Pastor, minister of Grace and Justice in the Antonio Maura government. However, Andreu Jaume Nadal emigrated to Uruguay, where his father had been settled and had an important business together with his brothers. So Alexandre learned the first letters in Uruguay where he was educated in French. In 1889 the Jaume family returned to Palma and young Alexandre studied high school in the Balearic Institute from 1891 to 1895. From 1896 to 1897 he studied Philosophy at the University of Barcelona, where he was student of Daurella, but he gave up, apparently because of family pressures, and he started studies in law at the same university. However he did not stay in Barcelona, but he continued his studies at the universities of Valencia and Madrid, where the 12 October 1900

obtained a degree in Law with excellent marks. His father seemed to have planned a political career in the liberal party in order for him to succeed his uncle Alexandre Rosselló. This included a good education for Alexandre prepared by his father, and after finishing his studies in law he went to Paris (1901-1903) to study economics at the Sorbonne. After that he was appointed, thanks to the efforts of his father, Consul of Uruguay in Palma and was dedicated to the practise of law and politics, with a clear preference for the latter. Jaume was member of the Liberal Party from 1904, and in 1909 he managed to be appointed city councillor in Palma, but apparently he was disappointed by local politics. The following year, he left the Liberal Party and went in to business with his brothers. The disillusionment with politics and the practice of law brought him ideologically closer to socialism and in May 1919, on the initiative of Llorenç Bisbal, he joined the socialist association of Palma when it had only 28 members. The surprise was great for family and society, a bourgeois businessman with a good economic position affiliated to a party of workers considered rather radical at the time, but Alexandre Jaume stayed his decision and collaborated actively in the diffusion organization of the party, *The Balearic Worker*, with many theoretical articles on socialism from a perspective clearly influenced by Jean Jaurés, i.e. pacifist and non-revolutionary socialism. In 1931 took his vath as deputy in the Constituent Assembly. He was the first socialist deputy of the Balearic Islands, but until 1936 did not hold any office in the party and even had problems with a section of it. On 23 April 1936, he was elected delegate by the President. When the coup d'état of General Francisco Franco broke out, he was arrested on 19 July 1936 at the Port de Pollença where he spent the summer. He was imprisoned at the Castell de Bellver and on 16 February 1937 the military court sentenced him to death. He was shot against the walls of the municipal cemetery of Palma, on the morning of 24 February 1937, along with Emili Darder, first Republican Mayor of Palma, Mateo Antonio, Mayor of Inca and Antonio M. Tions, amid a furious mass of people shouting and clapping at each shot of the execution squad.

Alexandre Jaume, though he made no philosophical-political system, was concerned with spreading and reflecting about socialism in a time when various trends existed. During his lifetime, he published two books, *Impressions of a constituent member 1931-1933* (Palma: José Tous, 1933) and *the October insurrection. Catalonia, Asturias, Balearic Islands* (Felanitx: Felanigense, 1935). As highlighted in the unpublished notes brought to light in 2011, *My Torment* (p. 127), he authored a brief introduction to socialism, *The Socialist Script*, a general work, but it was burnt when Jaume was arrested. Finally, while James was in prison, he sneaked out some notes to compose a book entitled *My Torment*, a work that has remained unpublished until 2011, and has been published with the letters written from jail. Jaume was also a regular contributor to *The Balearic Worker* and *The Last Hour*. They are currently preparing an edition of these writings within the up coming edition of his *Complete Works*, edited by Alexandre Font.

The study and the recovery of the memory of Alexandre Jaume was not an easy task after the years of Franco and on an island where everyone, until recently, know everyone. Oral sources, mainly the children of Alexandre and his nephew Andreu Jaume Rovira were not always explicit, though the latter retained a handful of writings -Archive Jaume Rovira-, and is concerned with the reinstatement of the figure of his uncle. Also the direct descendants of Alexandre Jaume maintain an excellent documentary archive -Archive Jaume Planas-. However, there were no studies on him until the work by his grandson Alexandre Font Jaume, a High School Latin teacher who holds a doctorate in Classical Philology. Indeed, several studies by Dr. Font reveal a scientific approach that outweigh emotional memories of his grandfather. We can say today that everything that could be said about the biographical aspects of Alexandre Jaume has already been said, particularly in the biography published in 2011 *Alexandre Jaume Rosselló* (1879-1937). However, there are still some tasks left such as the analysis of his political background and the theoretical model behind it, work that can only be undertaken through a textual analysis, his library was burned for family security reasons.

### ***Bibliographic Note***

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